

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MARK DESAULNIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 3, 2016*

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained yesterday during the last series of votes. Had I been here, I would have voted in the following manner: Roll Call Vote No. 51, I would have voted "aye."

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER AND RETIREMENT OF MABEL MCCLANAHAN MURPHREE, DISTRICT DIRECTOR FOR THE FIRST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI

**HON. TRENT KELLY**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 3, 2016*

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the career and retirement of Mabel McClanahan Murphree, Ph.D., who has served as the District Director for the First Congressional District of Mississippi for the past five years. Not only has Dr. Murphree been an essential asset as District Director, but her involvement and active participation in the community is commendable and far-reaching.

Dr. Murphree, is a former director of the Appalachian Regional Commission Office for Mississippi and a former senior vice president of the CREATE Foundation. In addition, Dr. Murphree served as the first Director of the Mississippi Corridor Consortium, which is a partnership among East Mississippi Community College, Itawamba Community College, and Northeast Mississippi Community College. This partnership was formed to strengthen the institutions' ability to provide services on a regional basis in the areas of workforce, community, and economic development as well as to increase the opportunities to leverage funding for regional initiatives at the local, state, and federal levels. Dr. Murphree has been involved in a variety of educational, economic development, community development, and telecommunication projects that range from designing teacher technology training programs to helping bring broadband access to Northeast Mississippi.

She holds a doctorate degree from Mississippi State University in education with an emphasis in technology and a minor in curriculum and instruction. She also holds degrees from Mississippi University for Women and the University of Mississippi, and has received post-graduate training from Harvard University. Dr. Murphree was honored in 2014 by being awarded the Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award by Mississippi University for Women.

Dr. Murphree serves or has served on the Boards of Directors for the Mississippi Economic Growth Alliance and Point of Presence (MEGAPOP), North Mississippi Medical Center, The Learning Skills Center, CATCH Kids, The Link Center, and the Community Development Foundation as well as the City of Tupelo's Planning Committee. She is a past President of the Natchez Trace Parkway As-

sociation and a Life Member of the Tupelo Junior Auxiliary.

She was born and raised in Columbus, Mississippi. Presently she resides with her husband in Tupelo, Mississippi, where they are members of First United Methodist Church. They have two sons and three grandchildren.

The people of the First Congressional District of Mississippi were well served under Dr. Murphree's leadership and her wisdom and positive attitude will be greatly missed. Her achievements will have a lasting impact on the First Congressional District and our state, and I know she will continue to accomplish great things for the state of Mississippi. I would like to thank Dr. Murphree for her years of dedication and service to the First Congressional District and our state, and wish her the best of luck in the next chapter of her life.

**ST. PAUL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH****HON. CARLOS CURBELO**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 3, 2016*

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church for its designation as the oldest African-American church in South Miami-Dade County. The church property was identified by the City of Homestead as a significant historic structure and I truly believe it warrants this recognition.

The first permanent church was built in 1911 by Linton Connors and the wooden frame building was given the name "Saint Paul Missionary Baptist Church". Reverend W.M. Baker served as the first pastor of the church and during his tenure, the reverend organized their first choir and established the missionary society 'Home Mission' to aid those in need within the community. This Mission continues to be in existence to this day.

Since then, the Saint Paul Missionary Church has continued to give back to the community through its organization of programs that allow its faithful members to serve. I would like to express my gratitude to church leaders and congregations, past and present. You have all been essential in sustaining the fortitude of this truly historic place of worship. May God continue to bless you.

**IN RECOGNITION OF CHRISTINA ANTON****HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 3, 2016*

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Christina Anton, a student in my district who was chosen to receive a grant to do a community service project through GenerationOn and the National Rural Electrical Cooperative Association. GenerationOn is a global youth service movement with the goal to empower youth to change the world around them through service to both their communities and countries abroad. GenerationOn is the culmination of a number of youth service organizations that was formed

five years ago in 2010. The National Rural Electric Cooperative is very selective, choosing only one Youth Tour student from each state to receive a grant. Christina Anton is an exceptional student and strives to create a better world for herself and her peers through community service. Her community service project is one that is of great importance to Virginia's 10th Congressional District, and concerns an issue I have been working on for a number of years, Lyme disease.

The town of Clifton has a beautiful park that gives the community access to a number of trails. The amount of ticks has grown quickly in recent years and has caused people to avoid the area. As a direct result of the increase in ticks, a campsite in the park has become overgrown. Christina aims to partner with my former colleague in the Virginia House of Delegates, Delegate Tim Hugo, Fairfax County Supervisor Pat Herry, and the Clifton Betterment Association to assist with Lyme disease prevention and clean up the campsite. This is an admirable project that will greatly contribute to the prevention of Lyme disease, a terrible and debilitating disease that affects so many. I truly appreciate all that Christina is doing to help our community.

**IN RECOGNITION OF OUR ALLY TURKEY****HON. PETE SESSIONS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 3, 2016*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of our allies in Turkey as they face encroachment on their territorial integrity and recover from devastating terror attacks in Istanbul and cities across the country.

Turkey is a longstanding friend and ally of the United States. From the Cold War to the fight against international terror, we have stood together against challenges and threats. During the Cold War, Turkey held down NATO's longest border with the Soviet Union. After the Soviet Union fell, greater threats such as terrorism, drug and human trafficking and extremism emerged. Again, Turkey remained on the front line of NATO, exposed to these threats.

The suicide attacks in Istanbul perpetrated by ISIS are yet another reminder of the dangers our allies face caused by the instability and uncertainty in the Middle East. Syria has become a breeding ground for terrorism and extremism, and is proof that inaction also carries a cost. The inability of the Administration to show leadership in the face of rising threats has caused the situation to spiral even further out of control.

Our ally Turkey has suffered from numerous acts of terrorism including suicide bombings in Suruc, Ankara, and others, which have cost thousands of lives. This situation cannot continue. The U.S. must show leadership.

These recent developments highlight the importance of Turkey as an ally and call for stronger U.S.-Turkish relations to help counter the threats faced by NATO and our allies.